

against innocent civilians elsewhere in the Middle East and Europe—bears direct responsibility for much of the tensions in southeast Turkey and for prompting the recent Turkish invasions of Iraq.

Operation Provide Comfort, the allied humanitarian and security operation in Northern Iraq, is a critical element of U.S. and Western strategies with regard to Iraq, and may be the only thing preventing tens of thousands of Kurds from pouring into southeastern Turkey. Although some Turkish officials recognize these facts and military officials at Incirlik have provided splendid cooperation to their British, French and American counterparts, other Turkish military and political officials (including parliamentarians) argue that Provide Comfort offers the PKK protection and cover in Northern Iraq. This rather schizophrenic view of Provide Comfort makes Turkey appear a reluctant participant in the allied effort, which Turkey has exploited to its advantage in dealings with its allies.

In keeping with traditions established during the days of Mustafa Kemal Attaturk, Turkey has an almost paranoid fear of losing its Turkish identity. The government of Turkey accordingly is unable—or unwilling—to distinguish the genuine threat posed by the PKK from the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Kurdish people. As a result, Turkey refuses to engage in a political dialogue with nonviolent Kurdish representatives, and is executing a heavy-handed, indiscriminate military campaign to eradicate what it views as a monolithic threat to the unity of the country.

The city of Diyarbakir, which symbolizes the ethnic difficulties that persist within Turkey, has become a haven for rural Kurds forced to evacuate neighboring towns and villages destroyed by the Turkish military. By some estimates, the city's population has grown from roughly 300,000 to more than 1,500,000 during the past five years. Although Turkish officials, local residents, and some independent observers suggest that tensions have subsided during the past two years, it is evident that any existing calm is tenuous and the result of Turkey's overwhelming—and at times oppressive—security presence, which has exacted a high cost in terms of human rights violations.

Turkey's government refuses even to acknowledge that there is a "Kurdish problem," and thereby is ignoring the real issue. By equating all Kurdish aspirations with the terrorist designs of the PKK, Turkey effectively has eliminated outlets for nonviolent Kurdish political or cultural expression. As a consequence, Turkey unintentionally may be contributing to the PKK's appeal.

Turkey desperately wants to join the European Union's Customs Union, and is making some effort to meet the European Parliament's minimum demands regarding democratization and human rights in order to achieve membership. It may even make some modifications to Article 8 of the Anti-Terror law (which prohibits the advocacy of separatism). Turkey will not, however, take any action which it perceives as comprising the Turkish identity, so there are limits to the amount of genuine change it will make to gain membership in the Customs Union. It is equally unclear that the West would have much impact on Turkish behavior by withholding benefits such as Customs Union membership.

Despite claims that it regards fundamentalism as a threat to its secular heritage, the government of Turkey appears to be encouraging and even sponsoring Islamic activities in an attempt to bind the country together and defuse separatist sentiment. Such a strategy—which parallels efforts of governments in the Near East seeking to counter radical

leftist groups during the 1970s and early 1980s—could backfire and inadvertently provide a foothold for Islamic extremists.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

1441. A communication from the Administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1994; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1442. A communication from the Associate Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1994; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1443. A communication from the Associate Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the activities and operations of The Public Integrity Section for calendar years 1992 and 1993; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1444. A communication from the Inspector General of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the budget request for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

1445. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Council on Alzheimer's Disease for fiscal year 1994; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

1446. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting pursuant to law, the report entitled, "Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention: The National Structured Evaluation"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

1447. A communication from the Director of Health Care Delivery and Quality Issues, the General Accounting Office, transmitting, the report entitled, "VA Health Care: Need for Brevard Hospital Not Justified"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1448. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on veterans' employment in the Federal Government for fiscal years 1993 and 1994; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 1244. An original bill making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-144).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. JEFFORDS:

S. 1244. An original bill making appropriations for the government of the District of

Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BOND, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. THURMOND, and Mr. GRAMM):

S. 1245. A bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to identify violent and hard-core juvenile offenders and treat them as adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 1246. A bill to amend titles 5 and 37, United States Code, to provide for the continuance of pay and the authority to make certain expenditures and obligations during lapses in appropriations; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. KYL, and Mr. NICKLES):

S. 1247. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for contributions to a medical savings account by any individual who is covered under a catastrophic coverage health plan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KERREY, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 1248. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the alcohol fuels credit to be allocated to patrons of a cooperative in certain cases; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRIST:

S. 1249. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish medical savings account, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DOLE:

S. Res. 172. A resolution providing for severance pay; considered and agreed to.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BOND, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. THURMOND, and Mr. GRAMM):

S. 1245. A bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to identify violent and hard-core juvenile offenders and treat them as adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### THE VIOLENT AND HARD-CORE JUVENILE OFFENDER REFORM ACT OF 1995

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, along with Senators ABRAHAM, BOND, COCHRAN, DEWINE, HATCH, INHOFE, KYL, MCCAIN, SIMPSON, and THURMOND, I am pleased to introduce the Violent and Hard-Core Juvenile Offender Reform Act of 1995. The crime epidemic sweeping across our country—growing with each passing year—can be attributed,